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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method in a content engine for dynamically providing a portal in a content
2 distributed network, comprising the steps of:
3 receiving a request for the portal from a client system;
4 accessing a portal template in response to the request, the portal template having
5 at least one dynamic portion;
6 including into the at least one dynamic portion of the portal template links to
7 content cached in the content engine and information about content availability to
8 generate a portal page; and
9 providing the portal page to the client system.

- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein including information about content availability
2 further comprises the steps of:
3 comparing a replication status to a catalog of files carried in the content engine to
4 determine what files are locally cached and what files remain to be downloaded; and
5 writing a list of files that remain to be downloaded to the portal page with an
6 indicator of unavailability.

- 1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of including links to content cached in the
2 content engine further comprises the steps of:
3 checking a replication status of the content engine to determine available cached
4 content; and
5 including into the at least one dynamic portion of the portal template links to
6 content found in the replication status.

- 1 4. The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of hiding at least one link to
2 content not found in the replication status in the at least one dynamic portion of the portal
3 template.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the portal template includes at least one applet and the
2 step of including links into the portal template comprises running the at least one applet
3 to acquire at least one pointer to content cached in the content engine.

1 6. The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of providing the portal template
2 having at least one applet to the client system and wherein the client system instantiates
3 the portal template including at least one applet and executes the at least one applet to
4 acquire content cached in the content engine.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of accessing the portal template further
2 comprises reading a template stored in the content engine.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of accessing the portal template further
2 comprises accessing a template stored at a portal page server in the content distributed
3 network.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the request is a redirected request from the client
2 system, redirected away from a central site and to the content engine by a content router
3 in the content distributed network.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the request is a search request and the method further
2 comprises the steps of:
3 querying a central server in response to the search request; and
4 receiving a list of files in response to querying the central server; and
5 wherein the step of including links to content further comprises including links to files
6 from the list cached in the content engine.

1 11. The method of claim 1 wherein the request is received at the content engine based on
2 a network location of the content engine with respect to the client system.

1 12. A method in a content engine for dynamically providing a portal to a channel in a
2 content distributed network, the channel having content, comprising the steps of:
3 receiving a request for the channel portal from a client system;
4 accessing a channel portal template in response to the request, the channel portal
5 template having at least one dynamic portion;
6 including into the at least one dynamic portion of the channel portal template
7 links to content cached in the content engine and information about content availability to
8 generate a channel portal page; and
9 providing the channel portal page to the client system.

1 13. The method of claim 12 wherein the step of including links to content further
2 includes the steps of:
3 checking a replication status of the content engine to determine channel content
4 available at the content engine; and
5 including into the at least one dynamic portion of the channel portal template
6 links to channel content found in the replication status to generate the channel portal
7 page.

1 14. The method of claim 12 wherein the request includes a search query for content in
2 the channel, wherein the channel portal template includes an applet accepting a first input
3 of the search query and a second input of a list of content in the channel and wherein the
4 step of including links to content further includes the steps of:
5 executing the applet to find content matching the search query;
6 determining whether the content matching the search query is cached at the
7 content engine; and
8 including into the at least one dynamic portion of the channel portal template
9 links to channel content cached at the content engine.

1 15. A content engine for dynamically providing a portal in a content distributed network,
2 comprising:

3 a network interface to receive a request for a portal from a client system;
4 a storage device to store content from the content distributed network and a portal
5 template having at least one dynamic portion; and
6 a controller coupled to the interface and the storage device, the controller
7 configured to access the portal template in response to the request, to include in the at
8 least one dynamic portion of the portal template links to content cached in the content
9 engine and information about content availability to generate a portal page, and to
10 provide the portal page to the client system.

1 16. The content engine of claim 15 wherein the storage device further includes a
2 replication status of the content engine and the controller is further configured to check
3 the replication status to determine available cached content, the controller further to
4 include into the at least one dynamic portion of the portal template links to content found
5 in the replication status.

1 17. The content engine of claim 15 wherein the portal template includes at least one
2 applet and the controller is further configured to run the at least one applet to acquire at
3 least one pointer to content cached in the content engine.

1 18. The content engine of claim 15 wherein the portal is a channel portal and the portal
2 template is a channel portal template and the controller is further configured to include
3 into the at least one dynamic portion of the channel portal template links to content
4 cached in the content engine to generate a channel portal page.

1 19. The content engine of claim 18 wherein the storage device further stores a replication
2 status of the content engine and the controller is further configured to check the
3 replication status to determine channel content available at the content engine and to

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4 include into the at least one dynamic portion of the channel portal template links to
5 channel content found in the replication status to generate a channel portal page.

1 20. The content engine of claim 18 wherein the request includes a search query for
2 content in the channel, wherein the channel portal template includes an applet that
3 accepts a first input of the search query and a second input of a list of content in the
4 channel, and wherein the controller is further configured to execute the applet to find
5 content matching the search query, to determine whether the content matching the search
6 query is cached at the content engine, and to include into the at least one dynamic portion
7 of the channel portal template links to channel content cached at the content engine.

1 21. A method in a content distributed network for dynamically providing a Web portal to
2 the content distributed network, comprising the steps of:

3 providing a manifest file to establish a channel of content in the content
4 distributed network, the manifest file describing channel content, the manifest file further
5 including a portal template, the portal template including at least one dynamic portion;

6 providing at least one content engine to cache a portion of channel content and to
7 cache the portal template;

8 receiving at the at least one content engine a request for the Web portal from a
9 client system;

10 accessing by the at least one content engine the portal template in response to the
11 request;

12 including by the at least one content engine into the least one dynamic portion of
13 the portal template links to content cached in the content engine to generate a Web portal
14 page; and

15 providing by the content engine the Web portal page to the client system.

1 22. A computer program product having a computer-readable medium including
2 computer program logic encoded thereon that, when performed on a computer system
3 having a coupling of a memory, a processor, and at least one communications interface,

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4 provides a method for dynamically providing a Web portal in a content distributed
5 network by performing the operations of:
6 receiving a request for the portal from a client system;
7 accessing a portal template in response to the request, the portal template having
8 at least one dynamic portion;
9 including into the at least one dynamic portion of the portal template links to
10 content cached in the content engine and information about content availability to
11 generate a portal page; and
12 providing the portal page to the client system.